

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 12-14, 17 and 20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment claims 1, 3, 6-8, 13, 14 and 17 are amended. These amendments are supported by Applicants' specification at least at Figs. 1, 3, 4 and 5. No new matter is added. Claims 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter that each of these claims recites. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 13, 14 and 17 are amended to obviate this rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 12-14, 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112 are respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 1-20. Claims 1, 3, 6-8 and 20 are amended to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection of claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 12-14, 17 and 20 are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 10 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 7,321,540 to Goulianian et al. (hereinafter "Goulianian") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,052,706 to Spitz et al. (hereinafter "Spitz"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action concedes that Goulianian does not teach that the data blocks contained in each data page is further identified by a number assigned to the blocks and the block of data can be accessed via the assigned block number. The Office Action asserts that Spitz remedies these shortfalls of Goulianian.

Claim 1 recites among other features a plurality of object beams having different incident angles to respective holographic recording layers and diffraction beams are generated in the respective holographic recording layer in the same direction as that of the object beams.

Goulianian teaches diffraction beams 22ijk generated in plural holograms radiate in parallel direction to each other, toward multi-element photo detector 50, see, e.g., Figs. 2a, 2b and 5 and col. 5, lines 9-19. Thus, Goulianian would not have suggested a plurality of object beams having different incident angles and diffraction beams are generated in the respective holographic recording layer in the same direction as that of the object beams. Spitz does not remedy these shortfalls of Goulianian.

Further, claim 1 recites as interference fringes of a common reference beam on an optical path extending in the laminated holographic recording layers. Goulianian teaches at, e.g., Fig. 11-14 and col. 7, lines 30- 31 the reference wave 29 in a [single] photorecording layer. Thus, Goulianian would not have suggested the optical path extending in the laminated holographic recording layers.

Claim 1 also recites among other features and by repeating a process of shifting to the recording area to be read out by rotating the multi-layer holographic recording medium. Goulianian teaches at, e.g., Fig. 2a-2b and col. 4, lines 37- 49 the readout beam 20 incidents to guided wave 21ij of the hologram layer through end surface 15i or grating couple 16i and the guided wave 21ig is parallel to a surface of the hologram layer. However, Goulianian would not have suggested that the hologram layers rotate in a plane parallel to the layers. Spitz does not remedy these shortfalls of Goulianian.

Spitz is not applied in a manner that would overcome any of these shortfalls in the application of Goulianian to the features positively recited in claim 1.

In view of the above, the combination of Goulianian with Spitz cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combination of all of the features positively recited in claim 1. Further, the combination of Goulianian with Spitz cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combinations of all of the features recited in claims 3, 10 and 20 for at least the

dependence of these claims on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 10 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Goulianian in view Spitz are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 4 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Goulianian and Spitz further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,844,700 to Jeanathan et al. (hereinafter "Jeanathan"); rejects claims 5-9, 11, 12, 14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Goulianian and Spitz further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,200,097 to Meyrules et al. (hereinafter "Meyrules"); and rejects claims 13, 15, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Goulianian, Spitz and Jeanathan further in view of Meyrules. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action concedes that the combination of Goulianian with Spitz does not teach recording the data page by shift multiplex recording. The Office Action asserts that Jeanathan remedies these shortfalls of the combination of Goulianian with Spitz. The Office Action concedes that the combination of Goulianian with Spitz does not teach that the layer number of the recording layer is identified by a number assigned to each of two-dimensional optical detectors such that each of the detectors is provided for a respective one of the holographic recording layer. The Office Action asserts that Meyrules remedies these shortfalls of the combination of Goulianian with Spitz. The Office Action concedes that the combination of Goulianian with Spitz and Jeanathan does not teach a process of simultaneously reading a plurality of data pages. The Office Action asserts that Meyrules remedies these shortfalls of the combination of Goulianian with Spitz and Jeanathan.

However, as argued above the combination of Goulianian with Spitz would not have suggested the combination of all of the features positively recited in claim 1. Jeanathan and Meyrules do not remedy these shortfalls of the combination of Goulianian with Spitz. Therefore, the combination of Goulianian with Spitz, even in consideration of the other

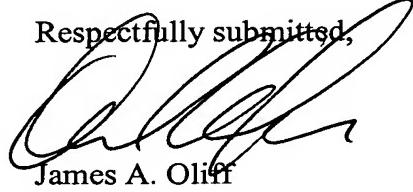
references, cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combinations of all of the features recited in claims 2, 6-8, 12-14 and 17 for at least the dependence of these claims on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the enumerated claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 17 and 20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 12, 2008

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